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SOCCER WORLD

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March 15, 1968.

Best in Australia

Red Tulip

CONTINENTAL
CHOCOLATES



John Warren strikes an airborne pose as he wins this duel for possession with Pan Hellenje's Con Omeros.

THREE-DAY STINT TO PREPARE FOR JAPAN TIES

The ASF's national team sub-committee, meeting in Sydney last weekend, has not made coach Joe Vlasits' task any easier for the forthcoming matches against Japan.

Ignoring his request, the sub-committee —

- Decided on a 16-man squad instead of the requested 25 and

- Further reduced the pre-match assembly period from five days to three.

Vlasits suggested a 25-man squad initially which would have had to follow his training schedule under State coaches until the final 18 selections met in Sydney.

meeting would have almost covered the extra expense.

The dates of the three matches against Japan are likely to be:

- March 31, Sunday, in Melbourne;

- April 3, Wednesday, in Adelaide;

- April 5, Friday, in Sydney.

These changes may be necessary as the Japanese have objected to the schedule of playing two matches in two consecutive days, on March 30 and 31.

Another ASF sub-committee, that in charge of tours, also met last weekend to plan for Australia's World Cup elimination commitments.

Now that Rhodesia have declared their willingness to play all their World Cup ties away from home, Australia is certain to try to stage both its matches against the Africans here, some time later this year.

Making full use of the national team being already prepared and assembled, the ASF would then send off the Australian side to Seoul and Tokyo to play its away World Cup ties against South Korea and Japan.

If these plans work out, the ASF hopes to stage the return matches against the

Koreans and the Japanese sometime in July, 1969, in Sydney and Melbourne.

However, all these plans are merely plans as the agreement of the other countries will have to be sought first.

Rhodesia will present a special problem as it is not known whether the Australian Government will welcome them to this country.

As for the attitude of Japan towards the World Cup matches, we will know a great deal more soon when they arrive in Australia.

The Australia Cup is certain to start before March 31, as scheduled, ASF secretary Ian McAndrew said this week.

The only matches played before that date will be the preliminaries, including Croatia's against an ACT side.

The full draw of the Cup will be made next week.

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THE AUSTRALIAN COMPANY

Don't believe a word ... ONE-EYED FRED

I suppose it'll be on again. The talk that South Coast can't win away from Woonona, that is.

The Press like to call it our "bogey," but that's not the true story.

It's as plain as the nose on Jimmy Durante's face why South Coast haven't won a match in the current Ampol Cup series.

Take Sunday's match against Polonia, for example.

There we were, fresh as a daisy, and all set to "eat" Polonia when that bloomin' ref blows up for fulltime.

Who ever heard of a soccer match finishing after only 70 minutes. Our lads were just warming to their task.

Jimmy Kelly trains 'em to play 90 minutes not 70.

Oh yes, I've read all about those blokes who play that other game — what's it called, footbrawl, — complaining about the heat at this time of the year.

But this is soccer, not rugby league! I reckon, myself, that it's time the Federation stopped pandering to half-fit, untalented teams.

While on that subject, have you ever seen a luckier team than Polonia on Sunday?

I'm not saying that some of their players are fat, but Bob Menzies is sylph-like compared to one or two of their forwards.

The heat was against us, too, needless to say.

Our boys are used to the fresh mountain air of Woonona, not the stifling cauldron of Sydney.

Polonia's officials should buy a lottery ticket and call it "Ringland's gift."

It's rumoured they offered the Coast \$3,000 for his services as a goal-scoring centre-forward after his display.

Krawiarsz's first goal was just as fortunate.

He was so surprised his centre kick went in he didn't know whether he was in Warsaw or Wentworth Park.

And Urbaniak couldn't get his big head out of the way of the ball when they fluked their third goal.

Even so, our youthful back-line was just getting on top when Mr. Naylor felt the need to test his lungs.

How the NSW selectors can leave Kelly out of the State side after Sunday's display is a mystery to me.

Kelly would have provided all the thrust needed to beat those Yarra-siders. Never mind about Westwater and Schaefer.

And Max Tolson also should have been in the NSW side.

He was all set to tear the net from behind Drawniak when the referee mistakenly ruled him offside.

Any fool could see the linesman was only brushing flies away with his flag.

And, its not true, as some Polonia fans suggested, that Tolson's nearest approach to scoring a goal was 12 yards over the bar.

It wasn't an inch more than eight yards. Okay, so we didn't register a win in the Cup. And came sixth in our group.

But what's wrong with sixth, anyway? It's not such a bad place, after all, so why the fuss?

Matter of fact, let you in on a secret: we wanted to use the Ampol only as a warm-up. Yeah, just a warm-up for the season.

There we'll wipe the floor with these high and mighty Sydney clubs.

Just watch that we don't.

— RECORDED BY ALAN SPEERS.

Old rivals clash in Adelaide final

— From ALLAN CRISP in Adelaide —

Adelaide Juventus and West Adelaide Hellas will provide an exciting climax to the highly successful 1968 Ampol Cup when they clash in the final tonight (Friday March 15) at Hindmarsh Stadium.

None should begrudge them the right to their 80 minutes of cup final glory.

Both lost only one minor round game on their way to the semifinals.

Juventus, because of their previous win over Hellas, could go into this game with a psychological advantage.

It will be only a slight edge, however, because Juventus trailed badly before Giovanni Meneghetti unleashed his sensational five-minute burst which realised three match winning goals.

Hellas were depleted last week because of industrial accidents to their talented

fullbacks, Elio Marusic and Nick Kefaloudis.

Marusic severed his left thumb while operating a power saw and Kefaloudis has a hernia which will require an operation.

Juventus broke a long run of outs when they last played Hellas.

A key factor in Hellas' favor this time is that they will have dynamic Billy Birch in their front line.

His tireless midfield work and dangerous shooting could help Hellas to turn the tables.

With 11 of South Australia's 18 man State squad participating, this should be a fitting finale to a good Cup series.

SYDNEY CLUB PATROL

Slavia-Melbourne and ex-Slavia players dominated last Monday's NSW v. Victoria line-up. In the Victorian team were Schroif (Slavia), Randles (Slavia), Goodwin (Slavia), McMeechan (Croatia and ex-Slavia), Sanchez (George Cross, ex-Slavia) and High (SM-Hellas, ex-Slavia). Former Slavia players in the NSW team were Acklerley (APIA) and Archie Blue, who played with Slavia before moving to JUST from where he transferred to Sydney. Two Slavia players were also standing by as Victorian reserves: Billy Book and Ian Reid.

HAKOAH defeated Bankstown 3-0 in a trial game last Sunday at Bankstown soccer centre. Johnny Watkiss played the entire match and looked better as the game progressed.

LAURIE HEGYES has resigned from his post as assistant NSW coach and/or selector. He told this column that he felt "hurt and annoyed" that, after having worked with the NSW team for weeks, under coach Joe Venglos, he wasn't taken to Melbourne last Monday for the interstate match. Jim Bayutti commented: "Hegyes was only a selector, not an assistant coach, and we didn't think it was important to take a selector with the team." Replied Hegyes: "At least five officials went with the team, including a team manager's secretary and the regular masseur's son." The question is: was this quarrel worth losing Hegyes' services?

Croatia and Pan Hellenic meet in all three grades in a TRIAL fixture at Wentworth Park on Saturday.

Croatia win Vic. Ampol

Croatia annexed their first ever major competition success when they defeated cup-holders Slavia 2-1 in a thrilling and spectacular game which formed a fitting climax to the Ampol Cup.

Right from the kick-off and until the game was decided two hours later through the necessity of extra time, it was all-action soccer as players of both sides pulled out their very best to show they possess an abundance of skill and talent which is probably unequalled among the State League sides.

It was made crystal clear at this early stage of 1968 that both Croatia and Slavia, through their magnificent performance last Friday night, will be the teams to beat the State League championship.

Slavia dominated the scene for almost the first half hour but a mixture of bad luck and erratic shooting cost them a handy lead at half time.

Croatia came into the picture with some devastating bursts of brilliance just before half time, continued their offensive in the early stages of the second half when they got a goal which seemed to write finish to the game but were knocked off their perch half a minute before the whistle for the end when Slavia equalised.

— Bob Low

Croatia transferred BOB FRASER and young goalie JIM FRASER, who are not related, to their "sister" club, Croatia-Adelaide. Jim made a sensational debut against Polonia last weekend in a dourly brilliant display that earned him a standing ovation at the end of the match. Bob Fraser played at inside-left in the same match.

PAN HELLENIC's barbecue at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Peters last weekend was a big success. More than 200 guests turned up.

All three MANLY grades travel to Newcastle on Sunday to play Adamstown.

BANKSTOWN THISTLE will travel to Gunnedah at Easter to contest the Tom McKnight Trophy played annually between the two clubs.

FERDO DUNAJ is still undecided as to whether he will appear as a player for Yugal this season. The Yugal coach told us last weekend he still hadn't even come officially to terms with the club regarding his coaching position for 1968.

Preparing for their first season in Federation Amateur Division, ROVERS recently held Auburn to a 3-3 draw and followed this by notching two goals against Marrickville in pre-season trial games. Now Rovers are seeking further trial games before their first competition match in Third Division on March 31.

CHRIS MARTIN, Croatia's new English forward from Crystal Palace, reached Sydney last Tuesday. He played with the Palace reserves last Saturday in London. On Friday night the Croatian Social Club will welcome him at a special function.

Thistle's centre-half, ALISTAIR MILLER, is returning from Western Australia this week.

Victoria meets South Australia at Middle Park, Melbourne, this Sunday. A return match will be played in Adelaide on Anzac Day.

Stop Press

It now appears as though Japan will play against Australia in Sydney on Saturday, March 30, at the Sports Ground, in Melbourne the following day and in Adelaide on April 4.

Watch for further changes next week...

BANKSTOWN SOCCER CLUB LTD. "The Soccer Centre"

Sat. March 16: Bankstown United v. Polonia
Evening: Dancing, Guest Artist: Steve Stevenson
Sun. March 17: Bankstown Thistle v. N. Sydney
(First game 9 a.m.)

— Members' information only —

Gartmore Avenue, Bankstown, Tel.: 70-4685

This is how the transfer fees spiral. A young Cypriot, H. XYPOLITAS, came to Sydney for family reasons and was keen to resume playing with St. George. They, in turn, agreed to have him though earmarked only for the reserve team, largely to do the boy a favor. Thinking it was only a matter of formality, they wrote to his club, Melbourne's obscure Athena, for his clearance. Back came the reply: the Saints can have him for \$2,000. Now Xypolitas, living in Sydney, will be forced out of soccer.

Bankstown inside forward, BOBBY GRANGE, went to Bankstown Hospital last Monday to undergo a minor stomach operation. He should be back in training within four weeks.

FRANK CUSH had a run in Croatia's thirds against Pan Hellenic last Saturday and scored a goal two minutes after he came in. He moved smartly and should be in top shape to take his place in Croatia's first team when the competition kicks off.

Pan Hellenic have called for a meeting of their members and supporters at the Elizabethan Theatre, Newtown, next Sunday at 5.30 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the establishment of a social club.

The vital meeting, in which all present will be invited to offer suggestions and air their views on the subject, could be a turning point in the club's history.

Club president, George Pappas, this week appealed to every Pan Hellenic fan to come to the meeting.

"I appeal to anyone who has any interest in the club to come to the meeting to express his views as the club feels that the establishment of a soccer-controlled social club will be the ultimate solution to most of our problems and will give us the financial strength on which the foundation of any successful club must rest", Pappas said.

Pan Hellenic have shown laudable initiative in renting the Elizabethan Theatre for a public debate on a most pressing matter.

We can only join club president Pappas in appealing to their many supporters to turn up.

Your club deserves it.

L. G.

EASTSIDE-MTK meets Ryde in trial matches at Nield Park, Henley Marine Drive, Drummoyne, this Sunday. Players are asked to be at the ground by 11.15 a.m. In last week's trials against North Sydney Inter the superior fitness of the semi-pro side tipped the scales against MTK whose firsts went down 3-1. The reserves' trial ended in a 1-1 draw.

The annual NOVA SHIELD will be held at Coleman Park on Sunday, March 31. This under-13 KO competition for teams in the Bankstown district is conducted by the Thistle club.

PETER GRAY, Melita Eagles' reserve goalkeeper, broke the little finger on his left hand in the friendly match against Sutherland and will be out of action for at least six weeks.

JIM GALLACHER, the Cumberland winger who was on loan to Granville last season, has been given a free clearance. Gallacher is keen to kick off the competition with a new club. He can be contacted at 1 Gormley St, Lidcombe.

Soccer is spreading through the schools, even the Catholic ones. The latest to start is Ryde's HOLY CROSS COLLEGE. However, they badly need the help of an expert at least once a week, during their lunch-time training. Anybody interested should ring 88-2383.

JOCK MCGRORY, the popular and long-serving Hakoah gear steward, is now recovering at home from an abdominal operation which immobilised him in hospital for over three weeks.

RAY CUSH had the plaster on his wrist removed last Tuesday.

In answer to J. Price's QUERY, the player who headed the ball clear was Weber, who earlier scored the second German goal. The shot came from Hurst. And to this very day there is doubt whether that ball had actually crossed the goal-line or not.

— Editor.

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Goal drought in Melbourne

Fair draw in big defensive battle

— By LOU GAUTIER —

Victoria and NSW played a scoreless draw at Olympic Park last Monday after 90 minutes of outstanding defensive football.

A crowd of about 6,000 watched the first match between the two States since 1963 in intermittent light rain.

The poor quality of the pitch, which was sandy and devoid of any grass at all in many places, contributed to the over-defensive tactics adopted by both sides throughout.

It was almost impossible to control the ball on the pitch which was transformed into a dustbowl because of the severe five-month old Melbourne drought.

The Sydney players were unanimous in claiming they had never played on a worse ground and all are looking forward to the return match, on Sunday

week, on the lush, well-grassed Wentworth Park surface.

The atrocious condition of Olympic Park, however, must not hide the fact that almost every one of the forwards on view was way below form.

One was entitled to expect far more from the eight full Australian international forwards who took the field.

With a couple of exceptions, it just wasn't their day, and as a result the match suffered as a spectacle.

The disappointingly small crowd — which was far below official expectations — showed its disapproval of the scruffy play served up by both

teams by walking out in hundreds 10 to 15 minutes before fulltime.

These spectators, however, were not quite justified in walking out because they had just witnessed a tremendous and effective display of defensive football, which nearly made up for the lack of sparkle in both forward-lines.

Both sets of forwards just weren't allowed to show their wares.

It would have taken truly inspired forwards to make a dent in the armour of the NSW and Victorian defences last Monday — and these were lacking in either line-up.

A John Warren, Ray Baartz or Vic Fernandez at the peak of their form could have converted NSW's marked territorial advantage between the 45th and 75th minutes, but all three were jaded, quite understandably so in the case of Warren and Fernandez, who had played only 24 hours earlier.

Baartz was never effective because the NSW forwards rarely found each other and were unable to bring off any collective movements.

Furthermore, a very NSW forward was held in a vice-like grip by a Victorian defence splendidly marshalled by stopper Van Alphen.

We don't envy coach Vlasits, nor the Australian selectors, their task in picking Australia's centre-half against Japan because Marnoch was every bit as good as his Victorian counterpart and played his usual cool, commanding game.

In fact, there was precious little to fault with the displays of any of the defenders on view.

Corry, who pulled off two breathtaking saves from screaming shots by Abonyi and Randles in the last 15 minutes, must have secured his Australian team berth.

(Continued on page 7)

...OR SO THEY SAY

"The six Ampol Cup matches scheduled for tonight, Saturday and Sunday have little competitive interest. South Sydney-Croatia need a few points from their match tonight with APIA-Leichhardt at the Showground to be certain of reaching the semi-finals."

(Telegraph, March 8).

"APIA-Leichhardt and Praeger meet in the first semi-final of the Ampol Cup pre-season soccer competition on Wednesday night."

(Herald, March 9).

"The semifinals of the Ampol Cup will be played at the Showground on Wednesday and the finals on Friday."

(Herald, March 9).

"Wing-half John Keddie scored both APIA goals."

(Herald, March 9).

"APIA plays South Sydney-Croatia at the Showground on Friday night. The winner will meet Zone A points leader Praeger in the first semi-final on March 15. Pan Hellenic and St. George-Budapest will play on Sunday for the right to play Hakoah-Eastern Suburbs in the other semifinal, also on March 15."

(Herald, March 6).

"Ron Corry, who returned from last November's tour of Southeast Asia as Australia's No. 1 goalkeeper, will not be available to play for NSW in the match against Victoria at Olympic Park, on March 11."

(Terry Smith, Australian, Feb. 27).

"The NSW soccer team to play Victoria in Melbourne on Monday is: R. Corry, T. Eaton, B. Lincoln, F. Johnston, S. Ackery, M. Schaffer, D. Yaggar, A. Marnoch, L. Scheinflug, A. Westwater, A. Blue, J. Warren, R. Baartz, R. Blitz, V. Fernandez."

(Herald, March 7).

"Let's pull no punches, the amenities for big football in this city are a joke. Perhaps someone can tell me why Rugby League has to play its glamour games on a cricket pitch, why soccer's premier-ship games are staged at a greyhound track, and why Rugby Union, has no home of its own worthy of the name."

(D. Jack, Sun, March 7).

"Yesterday, South Coast achieved the near-impossible — by making Polonia North Side look a good team."

(D. Jack, Sun, March 11).

"I would turn out on Christmas Day for a game provided there was some money to be earned for my toil."

(Johnny Raper, Mirror, March 11).

Inter City Cup Final

The winner of the Sydney Ampol Cup and the Victorian Ampol Cup winner (Croatia) will meet at Olympic Park, Melbourne, under floodlights on Friday week, March 22.

The return match, originally set down for Sydney two days later, has been scrapped because it would have clashed with the NSW v. Victoria interstate match at Wentworth Park on Sunday, March 24.

In future seasons, however, the Sydney and Melbourne pre-season competition winners will meet on a home-and-away basis.

Bill Hosie, the top Adelaide referee, is likely to referee the inter-city Ampol Cup final in Melbourne.

INTER-SUB. MEETING LAYS OUT '68 PLANS

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

Much of last Thursday's Inter-Suburban club meeting at Hellenic House was taken up by a debate on how best to end the amateur season.

Some favored an all-in amateur cup draw, but this idea was abandoned due to the limitation in playing dates.

The majority of Inter-Suburban clubs hold their grounds from Councils from April 1 to August 31 only.

This left three main propositions:

- Play semi-finals and finals as in recent years.
- Play a limited cup competition within each Division.
- Dispense with semi-finals and finals, and play the premiership only, leaving any clubs which wish to do so in a position to play football in the country at the season's end.

The vote went in favor of the first proposal. This will leave the League competition as the big draw, which without a doubt has helped to make Inter-Suburban football the stable competition it is today.

Promotion and relegation within the four divisions of the League will be decided on points scored in the premiership competition.

The play-offs at the end will determine the champions only.

Should clubs in promotion or relegation zones be equal on points, goal averages will decide the issues.

Amateurism debated

The Federation has made it quite clear that Inter-Suburban football is amateur football.

Any proved case of players being paid will be severely dealt with.

Whilst there are very few clubs who could even think of transgressing in this respect, even if they wanted to, a clear understanding by all clubs will contribute to the success of the season.

A club may of course pay travelling and meal expenses where justifiable by distance or other circumstances, as this is not an affront to generally held

amateur principles throughout the world.

To make such payments as a cloak for paying players is an entirely different story, and one which could lead to action if it occurs.

It is quite clear that a paid coach cannot appear in a team as a bona fide amateur player.

On the other hand, clubs can field up to four permit players, provided that they have received clearances to revert from semi-professional to amateur status.

Permit players are those who revert from semi-professional ranks, and who intend to do so for the remainder of their playing days.

Their permit lasts two years, and is renewable with the Federation.

They have to conform with normal amateur rules of signing for a club for 12 months at a time.

Once such a player returns to play semi-professional football, he will find it most difficult to join an Inter-Suburban amateur club thereafter.

Players can expect only "one bite at the cherry."

Some clubs are concerned that their four permit players can soon be taken up to some who signed for Federation clubs before the rules were so clearly defined, and although they may have only appeared in lower ranks, they have a semi-professional tag on them.

For the most part however, the position is very clear.

Players should always closely consider their position with semi-professional clubs before signing a contract and a "blue" professional registration.

Rules

Home teams change where there is a colour clash.

Clubs have to provide the referee with three footballs in match condition for inspection by the referee prior to each match.

In the event of continuous rain on the day of the match, clubs are to inspect the grounds at 9 a.m. with the referees.

The secretary of the home club advises the visiting team of the decision, and the referee advises the Federation.

And in the unhappy event of a player being sent off, he must appear the following Tuesday night at the Maltese Settlers Club, 53 Liverpool St., Sydney, and he can't play until his case is heard.

Sydney associations will have until April 1 to nominate teams in this year's Metropolitan Championships.

In an effort to introduce more district play into top football, the Sydney Amateur Association wants players leaving to join Federation clubs to go only to those clubs nominated by the Association concerned.

Should the player sign an amateur form, and not stay with the senior club, he would revert to the Amateur Association with whom he formerly played.

It is difficult to see the Federation accepting this, but the fact that many young players can see some future in their own districts together with the undoubted fact that a local Council will do more for its district club in ground improvements will lead to a gradual revolution in these matters.

Bankstown's juniors

Of the 44 youth players signed for Bankstown's Inter-District representative competition teams, 40 have been produced in Bankstown's own extensive junior grades.

Last Sunday, Bankstown teams had successes against St. George in a series of early games to the Bankstown-Hakoah trial at Bankstown.

Bankstown Association president, Eric Arneil, expected entries to exceed 330 teams when they closed during the week.

GRANVILLE HAVE THE RIGHT IDEA

— By CHARLES SPITERI —

Granville-Parramatta SFC, last year's runner-up in the Second Division, have their ambitions centred around their talented youths brought up from the junior ranks.

It was hard luck that the Magpies did not win the championship last season after leading the competition for most of the year — this has happened four times in the past five seasons.

Granville lost almost half of last year's team including John Crelly, who retired, Anderson (in England), Pontekos, Gallacher, and Bill Shepherd who is still a doubtful starter at this stage.

Mal O'Neill and John Brommett, on loan from Auburn last season, returned to their club.

However, local talent is plentiful and the loss of these players has not raised any alarm.

Bobby Wall, Granville's coach last year has been re-appointed to coach the side again this year and training started about three weeks ago.

There is a possibility that a young Austrian forward may join Granville within the next fortnight or so.

The lad, a friend and teammate of Adolf Tamandl — the Granville half-back — is a free player who will be migrating to Australia soon and has indicated that he would like to play beside him.

Almost all the new faces will come from the reserve graders of last year who finished on equal points with competition winners Western Suburbs and who, the previous year, were the Granville under-16 champion side.

The nucleus of the third grade team will come from last year's under-16 side but will be blended with experienced players from the reserve grade.

In keeping with the long-standing policy of the club to foster local talent, once again the club is sponsoring the Granville Magpies Junior Soccer Football club.

To make the juniors' affiliation with the senior club as

close as possible, the senior committee has extended them an invitation to sit at every alternative meeting of the senior club and discuss any problems which may arise.

However, more is in store for the 3500 odd juniors who play in the Granville district, as Ron Simmonds, president of the senior club has a big plan mapped out which will be put into operation as soon as the Granville Social Club is granted a liquor licence.

The club has already been granted a licence about 18 months ago, but this was lost after an appeal by the local hotel.

The club has appealed to the Supreme Court against the decision and now that the appellant has sold his interests in the area there is a good chance that the licence will be granted.

Once this is secured, a spanking new club-house will be built on the eastern side of the ground, Macarthur Park, which would be the first club-house to be erected by a soccer club on its home ground.

Macarthur Park, centrally located on Parramatta Road, has been re-turfed by Parramatta Council and work is under way to construct new seating facilities together with fencing on three sides, a new brick kiosk and brick entrance gates and a ticket office of modern design.

It is planned that once the clubhouse is erected and functioning, all profits from its activities (and this is written in the constitution) will go for the sole purpose of fostering soccer in the district.

The Granville Supporters Club has acquired a lease from the Main Roads Department for three acres of land at the corner of A'Beckett and Parker Streets, Granville, where a three-quarter size ground will be built for use by juniors.

PAN HELLENIC WILT IN THE FINISH, MISS SEMIS

After three successive Cup wins, Pan Hellenic's decline continued last Sunday and ended in their exit from the semi-finals which, at one stage, had appeared theirs for the asking.

APIA, on Friday, executed caused the shock of the season by beating the "unbeatable" Prague.

Also on Friday, Manly Our match reports:

Last Friday:

Manly boilover

Manly caused a tremendous upset when they defeated Prague, confounding every forecast, last Friday night.

Prague's shock defeat enabled APIA, convincing 2-0 winners over Croatia, to top Group "A".

Croatia, however, retain third place in the group and qualify for the Australia Cup.

Despite the importance of the APIA-Croatia match, only 2,573 spectators turned up at the Showground.

Manly v. Prague 1-0

Defending like tigers and counter-attacking intelligently with only two spearheads, Manly rose to great heights and did not usurp their sensational victory.

From the kick-off Manly served notice they would not be willing victims.

They fought for every ball as though their lives depended on it, and in the opening minutes Prague were forced on the defensive.

Manly's early sorties could easily have netted one or two goals as their fast forwards had Prague's defence at sixes and sevens in the first 20 minutes.

Prague gradually got the upper hand, but their onslaught on Manly's goal was to no avail.

Their forwards insisted on crowding the centre where they were repulsed by the nine-man Manly defence in which Tuinman again stood out with magnificent goal-keeping.

Prague in the second half literally besieged the Manly goal. At times no less than 18 players converged in the Manly 18 yards, but the more Prague attacked, the less they looked like scoring, every ball heading for goal either hitting a Manly leg, head or chest.

Prague for once lacked intelligence as they should have opened up more on the wings.

In the 59th minute, the inevitable happened: with the Prague defence up field, lending a hand to their desperately attacking forwards, Manly staged a quick two-player break-away, with Hughes and Ridding.

Ridding burst through the middle, laid on a perfect pass to Hughes whose burst of speed left the only Prague defender still in position standing before nearly dribbling the ball past the totally helpless and isolated King.

The last 10 minutes were highly exciting with Prague throwing everything into attack for the equaliser and

Manly defending more grimly than ever.

Manly's well marshalled defence, the class of goalie Tuinman and the dangerous breakaways of Ridding and Hughes stole the show.

Prague played nothing like against Canterbury, and only have themselves to blame for falling into Manly's trap instead of using the gaping open spaces of the vast Showground arena to good advantage.

Manly: Tuinman; McGrath, Brooks; Verrills, Campbell, Jagger; Hughes, Ridding, G. Jones, Harris, R. Jones.

Prague: King; Harcombe, Tracey; Blacker, Rootsey, Blanco; Povey, Manuel, Scheinflug, Thorne, Gault (Hoggart).

Scorer: Hughes 59 min.

Referee: L. Rae.

— Lou Gautier

APIA v. Croatia 2-0

APIA dictated the terms for the full 70 minutes, never allowing Croatia to assert their hopes for midfield dominance.

APIA's easy victory was undoubtedly paved by their constructive halfback line, which played remarkably well despite the absence of Hughes and Van Blerk, both of whom watching the match as reserves on the bench.

Muir and Sambrook, who made a very successful comeback to his old team, played a big part in APIA's victory, as did skipper Bottalico, the fullbacks and forwards Blue and Keddie, the executioner last Friday.

APIA were in complete control and though they have played more spectacular football in the past, served notice they are anything but a spent force.

In fact, their victory was all the more deserving because Campana, on his day Sydney's most brilliant forward, was also on the bench.

Despite the absence of three players who would make the mouths of most

club officials water, APIA, were able to impose their style and tactics on a surprisingly tame and willing Croatia.

Little was seen of the Croatia attack and APIA goalie Taylor was never seriously threatened.

Corry, in the other goal, was the busiest player on the field.

He pulled off a couple of dazzling saves, but was at fault on APIA's second goal — the result of a masterful Giacometti corner-kick.

If the match did not reach great heights and was something of an anti-climax after the excitement of the early match, the fault rests with Croatia.

Despite the importance of the tie, which they had to win at all costs, they again concentrated solely on defence as though all they required was a scoreless draw.

Their halves stationed them-

selves exclusively in the rear, never once attempting to back up their young, inexperienced forwards.

APIA's far greater attacking enterprising spirit found a just reward in a victory which not only opened the way to the semifinals, but also enabled them to end up on top of their group.

So much for those who had buried them prematurely!

APIA: Taylor; Nuttall, Ackerley; Muir, Sambrook, Bottalico; Keddie, Blue, Giacometti, Campbell, McKinnon.

Croatia: Corry; Lincoln, Sloan; Curry, Shepherd, Page; Yaager, Wright, Brian (Barbouts), Giles, Frakes.

Scorers: Keddie 32 and 55 mins.

Referee: N. Jones.

Crowd: 2,573 (double-header).

— Lou Gautier

Last Saturday

Yugal's fine draw

Hakoah, held to a surprise draw by Yugal, still finished at the top of Group "B" while Melita Eagles finished last in Group "A" of the Ampol Cup in the two matches played last Saturday at Arlington Oval.

A crowd of 1,800 watched two close games which were fought to the finish though the early match only had academical interest.

Canterbury v. Melita Eagles 1-0

Melita Eagles was handed the wooden spoon in Group "A" when Gerry Hood headed home a corner kick seven minutes from the end to give Canterbury a narrow win.

The Berries hardly deserved the points with their display, but were a fitter side and showed better understanding between defence and attack.

For Melita, this was yet another poor performance — one in the endless chain of defeats which, however narrow, are discouraging many of their supporters.

Whitehead, at left half, was an inspiration to Canterbury and was the main driving force behind a rather shaky Canterbury defence.

John Duffy, making his debut for the Eagles, put some fire in the Eagles' midfield play, but tired badly towards the end.

With a bigger share of the ball in the early stages of the game, Melita kept the Barries' defence under pressure but, as usual, every move bogged down in front of goal despite some big mistakes made by the Canterbury keeper.

However, gradually and steadily, Melita slowed down and Canterbury took control of midfield, making more frequent and dangerous attacks.

In the second half, the Canterbury forwards, especially Rinos and Hood, combined more effectively and gave the tiring Melita defence many anxious moments.

The only players who stood out for Melita were De Bruin, who had one of his best games ever, and Joe Cilia, who covered the centre splendidly.

With the competition only a fortnight away, both teams must improve greatly unless they want to be contenders

for relegation.

Canterbury: Demopoulos; Hardy, Raeburn; Galbraith, Kostetokopoulos, Whitehead; Como (Kauz), Rinos, Hood, Romanos, Clarke.

Melita Eagles: Eaton; Hunter, De Bruin; Cilia, Woods, Hewlett (Reid); Nemet, Price, Duffy, Goldie, Quesada.

Scorer: Hood 63 min.

Referee: A. Faraone.

— Charles Spiteri

Hakoah v. Yugal 1-1

The shock of the day came in the late match when a determined Yugal nearly matched a surprise win over Hakoah, still without Watkiss.

Although Hakoah played the better football, somehow the side could not click properly and many excellent goal-scoring moves went astray through erratic shooting out of eagerness.

This probably stemmed from the fact that an early defensive blunder allowed Yugal's Edwards to put his side in the lead, sending Hakoah to the panic stations.

This in no way minimises Yugal's performance, especially in defence where Banicevic successfully kept in check the formidable Baartz and newcomer Dave Keddie — easily the best Hakoah forwards.

Played under some heavy showers, the wet and slippery surface never allowed the game to rise to any great heights and play was mostly confined to a slugging duel in midfield.

Yugal relied mostly on breakaway attacks where Alagich schemed the ball with flashing speed, which on occasions caught the Hakoah defence out of position.

However, it was an easy 70 minutes for both goalkeepers as none had enough of the ball to even warm up.

The crossbar denied Hakoah two "certain" goals — one in the first half by Dave Keddie and the other in the second half by Ray Baartz.

Both shots were hard enough to tear holes in the net, but in each instance the ball was cleared quickly by the fast-moving Yugal defence.

Hakoah: Fuzes; Stewart, Hillsdon; Gardiner, Marnoch, Yaager; Edmunds, Fekete.

Yugal: Ljubic; Nacinovic, Crnich; Stosich, Banicevic, Clancy (Rafanelli); Alagich, Takac, Melakovich, Edwards, Volar.

Scorers: Edwards 7 min. for Yugal; Keddie 58 min. for Hakoah.

Referee: H. Parsons.

Crowd: 1,854 (double-header).

— Charles Spiteri

Last Sunday:

Warren classic

After 350 minutes of struggle, South Coast finally scored their first goal of the season yet went down to Polonia in a scrappy early game.

St. George-Budapest, testifying their rapid improvement, scored an easy 2-0 win over Pan Hellenic.

This swept them to the semifinals and put Pan Hellenic out.

Polonia v. South Coast 3-1

Polonia won this comedy of errors simply because their forwards were not afraid to shoot.

For the most part, their direction was astray, but working, probably, on the law of averages, they eventually won the day.

South Coast seem to get worse with every match.

Kelly's return, and the acquisition of McGarry, have done little to improve things.

There seems little purpose, and less conviction, in the team.

The defence, with veteran Harris at centre-half — he looks perpetually tired — is as fragile as bone china.

It says little for Polonia's forwards, however, that only an incredible blunder by Ringland allowed them to lead by the odd goal until two minutes from fulltime.

Why Ringland even ventured near the ball, let alone jabbed it into the net, will forever remain a mystery.

Polonia relied almost exclusively on either Minol or Krawiarz, with Oliver, Baker and Urbanik (despite his late goal) serving mainly as nuisance value.

The Polonia defence, apart from the slip which allowed Robard to equalise, was rarely in trouble.

In the South Coast team, Alston tried hard to instil some life into the forward line.

McGarry, playing a deep-lying role, laid on the pass from which Robard scored, but was inclined to slow the play when a quick pass might have been more effective.

Tolson, whose talent was good enough a season or two ago to win a place in English League football, is obviously unhappy at inside forward, and made little attempt to disguise the fact.

Polonia: Drewniak; Addison, Skiba, Calphy, Dzialach, Komoder; Oliver, Minol, Baker, Krawiarz, Urbanik.

South Coast: Ramage; Carr, Ringland; Kelly, Harris, Harrison; Robard, Alston, McGarry, Tolson, Paterson.

Scorers: Krawiarz 12 min., Ringland (o.g.) 42 min., Urbanik 68 min. for Polonia; Robard 17 min., for South Coast.

Referee: G. Naylor.

— Alan Speers

St. George v. Pan Hellenic 2-0

A rarely seen volley on the run by Australian skipper John Warren not only put the Saints in the lead but also killed what was left of Pan Hellenic's spirit.

This was a goal classic in its preparation and execution; the type that would fill the world's presses if it fell in London or Milan or Madrid.

Cliss lobbed the ball to the 18-yard line and Schauman, with his back to the goal, headed it goalwards, ever so gently, in the path of the on-rushing Warren.

And Warren, now in full pelt, stabbed at the ball with all the venom a frustrated forward can feel at 0-0, literally pasting it into the corner.

Pan Hellenic, as though they were anxious to verify all that I said about them last week, ran around in circles without a master-plan, as if hoping that enthusiasm and spirit will eventually gain their just rewards.

Not at any stage did they appear to conform to even simple tactical discipline; once again, solo runs and individual bravado was the order of the day.

This, against a fast improving St. George, could not have succeeded.

As the game wore on and especially in the second half when Schaefer and Warren all of a sudden remembered their own class, the Saints began to outpace and outclass their opponents.

For the Saints Sandell, Schaefer and Zuckerman starred in defence; the forward line operated as a unit, especially in the second half when Schauman, this erratic, enigmatic ballplayer made his unexpected appearance.

For Pan Hellenic, it's hard to award any kudos at all though as individuals Cole, Hignett and Blitz did all they could.

St. George: Haffey; Sandell, Morgan, Hillary; Schaefer, Zuckerman; Burton, Cliss, Warren, Fernandez, McCue (Schauman).

Pan Hellenic: Clarke; Johnston, Cole, Hignett; Westwater, Omeros; Smith, Karyannis, McCulloch, Laraman, Blitz.

Scorers: Warren 49 min., Fernandez 66 min.

Referee: A. Boskovic.

Crowd: 5,040 (double-header).

— Paul Dean

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SUNDAY'S CUP FINAL IS ANYBODY'S GUESS

— By LOU GAUTIER —

APIA, Prague, Hakoah and St. George-Budapest, this year's Ampol Cup semi-finalists, have won nine of the 11 Ampol Cups between them.

APIA, Hakoah and St. George also reached last year's semifinals, but Prague are making a first reappearance since 1965 when they won the Cup for a record fifth time.

Victory tonight (Wednesday, March 13) will see the winners through to the final on Sunday at Wentworth Park while the losers will fight it out for third and fourth place in the early match.

Our preview of the semifinals:

Hakoah v. Prague

The clash of the "old firm" in Wednesday's early match brings back memories of their stirring 1961 Ampol Cup final played before a record Ampol Cup crowd of 17,500 spectators at the Sportsground. Tonight they will be lucky to be playing in front of half that many people, but indications are both teams could turn in a display reminiscent of

midfield grafter — Prague cannot match. Baartz could again mean the difference between victory and defeat for Hakoah.

If any one player can take Hakoah into the final, it is the Australian international whom Prague cannot afford to leave unmarked for one moment.

Prague in attack will depend on Thorne and Manuel, their new-found strikers, but they must reproduce their "Canterbury" form, not last week's unintelligent display, to worry Marnoch's troops in any way.

Marnoch is to the Hakoah defence what Baartz is to their forward line.

The raw-boned Australian international stopper is the cornerstone of Hakoah's defence: pass him and you're half way there, and this despite goalie Fuzes, who in our book is well on the way towards establishing himself as our best goalkeeper.

Marnoch in defence and Baartz in attack could prove too much for Prague to handle.

Prague revealed their weaknesses against Manly when they repeated the mistakes that cost them a win against Croatia.

Paradoxically, the very strength of Hakoah's defence may suit Prague better: against them they won't be able to assert the overwhelming territorial advantage they enjoyed — fruitlessly — last week.

This may force their forwards to operate from breakaways where their speed and smart inter-passing could pay better dividends.

Prague showed enough glimpses of real class against APIA and Canterbury to suggest they cannot be discounted.

Hakoah's forward line will have to move smartly and combine better than in their last two outings to skip over this hurdle with any degree of confidence.

This confidence, however, we are willing to accord them, mainly because Prague may not be quite ready — as their lapse against Manly showed — to assume their place as a first rate power in Sydney soccer just yet.

APIA v. St. George

Though St. George got through to the semifinals by the back door, so to speak, while APIA finished on top of their group, it would take a bold tipster to claim that the issue here is cut and dry.

Actually, Wednesday's late game is the most open, difficult to forecast of any match played in the Ampol Cup to date.

There is so little separating the teams that your guess is as good as any when it comes to picking the winner.

The fact that both sides have shown improvement with every match as the series progressed and appear to have reached a peak right now, makes the outcome even more uncertain.

St. George have the edge in one department: they have no selection worries.

Their team practically picks itself, what with Galambos still out with injury and Schauman again revealing glimpses of his undoubted, if erratic, ability last Sunday.

APIA, on the other hand, are faced with a dilemma.



FRANK HAFFEY (St. George-Budapest)

Acting coach Smith has to decide whether to reinstate Campana, Hughes and Van Blerk, or renew confidence to the team which outclassed Croatia.

His decision as to who will play tonight may hold the key of the match because there can be little doubt that a Campana in the mood, or a Pat Hughes anywhere near his old form, would increase APIA's potential.

Saints, however, can rest assured that whatever the opposition, they'll be in for a torrid 70 minutes of all-action, no-holds-barred football.

With so little between the teams in playing strength, luck must play a big part in deciding the result.

Both teams will be anxious to get off to a good start and try their hardest for that all important early goal.

The first goal will be doubly vital here because both sets of defenders are strong enough to preserve an early advantage and set the side which finds itself in arrears a merry chase.

Whether Campana plays or not, APIA, on paper at least, seem to have a slight advantage in attack, especially if Blue can set Giacometti up with scoring chances.

Keddie is another APIA forward Saints will have to watch closely now that the former Cumberland star has found touch again.

Saints have the more classical forwards in Warren, Cliss, Fernandez and Schauman, but they lack the punch of their faster, more direct counterparts.

Defence-wise there is little to choose between the teams and this is where the match may be won or lost, depending on which side enjoys the lucky breaks that play such a big part in this type of cut-throat clash.

As I said before, it's hard to tip a winner because there are countless factors which may crop up unexpectedly to change the course of a match which promises to be a real, no punches pulled thriller.

However, since tip 1 must, may I suggest, ever so tentatively, APIA, but without any degree of confidence since a win for the holders wouldn't raise an eyebrow.

As there is so little difference at this stage of the season between the four semifinalists, all of whom can entertain justifiable hopes of receiving the Cup on Sunday afternoon, the winner of the Cup final remains a well guarded secret.

Having already recklessly stuck my neck out in selecting Hakoah and APIA to reach the final, I may be forgiven if I go a step further and pick APIA as the 1968 Ampol Cup winners.

A couple of weeks ago we went on record as saying that the team that beat APIA would win the Cup. We'll stick to that, come what may.

PROBABLE TEAMS

HAKOAH v. PRAGUE

FUZES	1	KING
STEWART	2	HARCOMBE
HILLSDON	3	TRACEY
GARDINER	4	BLACKER
MARNOC	5	ROOTSEY
YAAGER	6	BLANCO
EDMUNDS	7	ARMYTAG
BARNETT	8	MANUEL
KEDDIE	9	SCHAEFLUG
BAARTZ	10	THORNE
JONES	11	POVEY

Referee: A. BOSKOVIC.

APIA v. ST. GEORGE

TAYLOR	1	HAFFEY
NUTTALL	2	SANDELL
ACKERLEY	3	HILLARY
MUIR	4	SCHAEFER
SAMBROOK	5	MORGAN
BOTTALICO	6	ZUCKERMAN
KEDDIE	7	MC CUE
BLUE	8	CLISS
GIACOMETTI	9	WARREN
CAMPBELL	10	FERNANDEZ
McKINNON	11	SCHAUMAN

Referee: K. LOCKREY.

RESULTS TABLES

GROUP	APIA	Canterbury	Croatia	Manly	Prague	Melita Eagles
"A"						
APIA	●	3-2	2-0	2-0	1-2	2-0
Canterbury	2-3	●	3-2	2-2	1-9	1-0
Croatia	0-2	2-3	●	2-0	1-0	1-0
Manly	0-2	2-2	0-2	●	1-0	1-3
Prague	2-1	9-1	0-1	0-1	●	3-0
Melita Eagles	0-2	0-1	0-1	3-1	0-3	●

GROUP	Hakoah	Pan Hellenic	Polonia	St. George	South Coast	Yugal
"B"						
Hakoah	●	2-0	2-0	3-1	2-0	1-1
Pan Hellenic	0-2	●	3-0	0-2	2-0	4-0
Polonia	0-2	0-3	●	0-3	3-1	0-0
St. George-B'pest	1-3	2-0	3-0	●	3-0	2-2
South Coast	0-2	0-2	1-3	0-3	●	0-2
Yugal	1-1	0-4	0-0	2-2	2-0	●

SYDNEY PROGRAM

THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, March 17

AMPOL CUP FINAL

Wentworth Park — 3.30 p.m.

Play-off 3rd and 4th place — 1.45 p.m.

NEXT WEEKEND

Sunday, March 24

NSW v. Victoria — Wentworth Park, 3 p.m.

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Sydney's six for Aust. Cup.

This is how the six Sydney teams will be seeded in the Australia Cup: 1. Hakoah, 2. APIA, 3. St. George, 4. Prague, 5. Pan Hellenic, 6. Croatia.

Croatia, the sixth seed, will have to play-off against the Canberra representative before the end of this month.

FINAL AMPOL TABLES GROUP "A"

APIA	5	4	—	1	10	4	58
Prague	5	3	—	2	14	4	50
Croatia	5	3	—	2	6	5	42
Canterbury	5	2	1	2	9	16	38
Manly	5	1	1	3	4	10	21
Melita E.	5	1	—	4	3	8	15

GROUP "B"

Hakoah	5	4	1	—	10	2	63
St. George	5	3	1	1	10	4	52
P. Hellenic	5	3	—	2	9	4	45
Yugal	5	2	2	1	5	7	32
Polonia	5	1	1	3	3	9	20
SCU	5	—	—	5	1	12	1

Previous Ampol winners

- 1957: Hakoah (Lane Cove)
- 1958: Canterbury (Hakoah)
- 1959: Prague (Auburn)
- 1960: St. George (APIA)
- 1961: Prague (Hakoah)
- 1962: Prague (Canterbury)
- 1963: Yugal (Auburn)
- 1964: Prague (APIA)
- 1965: Prague (Yugal)
- 1966: APIA (Hakoah)
- 1967: St. George (Hakoah)

* Runners-up in brackets.

INTERSTATE FIXTURE

NEW SOUTH WALES

v.

VICTORIA

24th MARCH — WENTWORTH PARK



ROUND THE WORLD

Yardley out for season

Former St. George-Budapest centre-forward, George Yardley, is not likely to play again this season. Yardley, until last week the top scorer in British soccer, was carried off with several injuries during the recent match against Shrewsbury. The manager of Tranmere Rovers, who badly missed Yardley in their Cup tie against Everton last Saturday, said he may sue the Shrewsbury player responsible for Yardley's shocking injuries after he sees a film of the match.

French clubs lobbying MPs

French professional clubs are among the strongest opponents of the introduction of commercials on French radio and television. First Division presidents are lobbying with their members of Parliament to try to "kill" the bill which will legalise advertising on the air. They claim that Radio and TV ads will deprive them of the revenue they now earn by selling valuable space on advertising billboards around their pitches.

Real pressed

Real Madrid's lead in Spain is shaky; they are only two points ahead of Barcelona and Las Palmas. The top scorer so far in Spain is Bilbao's Uriarte with 21 goals, ahead of Valencia's Ansoa, on 12.

AEK in lead

AEK of Athens is running away with the Greek Championship. They are coached by Hungarian Jeno Csaknady who, in 1962 or so, was all set to come to St. George-Budapest.

Puskas needs help

Puskas, now manager-coach in Vancouver, has a full-time interpreter at his disposal, a former compatriot of his, Csabai, who had also spent years in Spain. Puskas speaks Hungarian, Spanish and German — but no English.

Stiff reunion?

Swiss referee Dienst was in charge of the Belgium v. West Germany match last week (1-3). This was the first time Dienst refereed for the Germans since the World Cup final in 1966 — when he awarded against them the most controversial goal of the century.



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With only eight rounds to go, AC Milan appear to have won the "Scudetto," — the Italian title: they have a big lead over Napoli. Inter-Milan are having a lean time, languishing in fifth place, nine points behind their Milanese rivals.

Hungarians on the move

Three Hungarian clubs toured Latin America recently: Vasas and Ujpest were in South America and Ferencvaros in Mexico. Among Vasas' scalps: the Czech national team and Racing Buenos Aires, club world champions of 1967.

The all-stars

Manchester United set a unique record last season: they could field a team full of internationals, such as Gregg (Ireland); Brennan, Dunne (both Eire); Crerand (Scotland); Foulkes, Stiles (both England); Best (Ireland); Law (Scotland); Charlton (England); Herd (Scotland); Connelly (England).

New blood?

There are only two foreigners who are now Football League club directors in England: Predrag Lukic, a native of Yugoslavia, who is with Stockport and Ismail Gibrail, from British Somalia, who is with Blackpool. Both are successful businessmen.

● France and Austria meet in their Olympic qualifying matches on May 1 in Paris and May 12 in Vienna.

● Spain defeated Sweden 3-1 at Seville last week. Spain's goals were scored by Amancio (2) and Rife and Eidersted for Sweden. Sweden's best player was halfback Grip who scored the winning goal for AIK Stockholm, from a penalty, when the Swedes beat Australia 2-1 in Hong Kong in November 1965.

● Juventus and Braunschweig Eintracht will play their third European Cup quarterfinal match at Berne, Switzerland, on March 20.

● Standard Liege and Milan AC drew 1-1 in their first leg of the European Cupwinners' Cup quarterfinal in Belgium.

European Junior Championships

The 16 finalists for this year's European Junior Championships which will be staged on the French Riviera at Easter are now known. They have been divided into the following four groups: "A" — Scotland, Portugal, Switzerland, Belgium; "B" — Bulgaria, England, USSR, Holland; "C" — West Germany, Italy, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia; "D" — Hungary, France, East Germany, Greece.

● The Russian national team will play two matches in France at the end of the month: against Reims on March 28 and Rennes on March 31.

● Spartak Trnava (Czechoslovakia) defeated Zelenicar of Yugoslavia 2-1 in a Mitropa Cup match.

● In the South American Champions' Cup, Universidad Catolica (Chile) drew 1-1 with Emelec (Ecuador) and Universidad Chile beat Nacional of Ecuador 1-0.

● French international forward, Philippe Gondet, underwent a second cartilage operation in less than a year last week. He will miss the rest of the season.

● The American club, Baltimore Bays, will undertake a world tour in September-October-December. Australia is among the countries they would like to appear in. One of their players is Karl Miner, ex-South Coast.

● Sevilla, in danger of relegation from Spain's First Division, offered their players bonuses of \$11,000 per player to avoid the drop.

Polish goalie wows Manchester

Gornik Zabrze goalie Kostka was the hero of the recent Gornik-Manchester United European Cup tie at Old Trafford. He performed heroics between the Polish sticks and was only beaten by an "own" goal in the 67th minute before Brian Kidd made it 2-0 in the last minute. Kostka was absolutely brilliant and received a hero's ovation from the usually partisan Manchester crowd after the match. The English Press used every superlative to describe and praise his performance, "the best ever seen in Britain," according to the DAILY MAIL.

Sweden's national women's league

An organised national women's competition is under way in Sweden. The league includes 10 teams from Vasteras, Stockholm, Norkopping, Goteborg and Malmo. Conditions of entry for players is that they must be teenagers or mothers with at least one child. Czechoslovakia is the only other European country which conducts a properly organised and recognised national women's league ladies' match staged at Vasteras attracted 5,500 spectators at their matches. Last year the first ladies' match staged at Vasteras attracted 5,500 curious spectators, mainly males.

Rappan says "no"

Karl Rappan has declined a fabulous offer to coach Benfica. The Austrian-born "father" of Swiss soccer says he prefers to end his coaching career in Switzerland. "I'm too old at 64 to adapt to new surroundings," explained Rappan. Benfica, meanwhile, are busily renewing their search for a coach while Fernando Cabrita, a former Portuguese international who coached in France for 10 years, fills the post temporarily.

Asian Cup finals

The finals of the Asian Cup will be played in Teheran, the Iranian capital, between April 12 and 20. The following countries will compete: Iran, Israel, Nationalist China, Burma and Hong Kong. The series will be played as a round-robin.

More players in Canada

Figures revealed by the Canadian FA show that in 1967 there were 41,220 soccer players in Canada. British Columbia is the leading province in playing strength, having fielded 15,000 players last year. Soccer is gaining ground rapidly in Ontario and Quebec, which each boasts 12,000 players now. Soccer in the other provinces is practically non-existent. Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia only have 1,800 players between them.

SCOREBOARD

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' CUP: Real Madrid v. Sparta Prague 3-0; Vasas v. Benfica 0-0.

EUROPEAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP: Cardiff City v. Torpedo Moscow 1-0.

BELGIUM: Standard Liege v. Racing White 2-0; Daring v. Lierse 1-0; Antwerp v. Malines 1-2; Sporting Charleroi v. Waregem 2-3; Bruges v. FC Liege 4-2; Anderlecht v. Beerschot 3-1; Beveren Waas v. Olympic Charleroi 0-1; St. Trond v. Beeringen 4-0.

FRANCE: St. Etienne v. Angers 2-1; Red Star v. Strasbourg 0-0; Dunkerque v. Nice 1-0; Angoulême v. Rouen 2-0; Metz v. Nancy 2-1; Bordeaux v. Ajaccio 2-0; Quevilly v. Lyon 1-0; Sochaux v. Nantes 2-1.

GREECE: Panseikos v. AEK 1-0; Prodeftiki v. Aris 2-1; Panathinaikos v. Iraklis 2-1; Vyzas v. Ethnikos 2-0; PAOK v. Panelefsinaikos 1-0; Panionios v. Olympiakos Volo 3-0; Pierikos v. Veria 2-0; Apollon v. Egaleo 0-2; Olympiakos Pireus v. Olympiakos Niccsia 2-1.

ITALY: Atalanta v. Mantova 2-0; Fiorentina v. Napoli 3-1; Inter v. Brescia 3-0; Juventus v. Cagliari 2-0; Vicenza v. Roma 0-0; Sampdoria v. AC Milan 0-3; Spal v. Bologna 1-3.

PORTUGAL: Braga v. Sporting Lisbon 3-1; Académica v. Porto 1-1; Leixoes v. Benfica 0-2; Belenenses v. Setubal 2-2; CUF v. Guimaraes 1-1; Sanjoanense v. Varzim 2-0; Tirsense v. Barreirense 3-2.

SPAIN: Barcelona v. Elche 4-2; Real Sociedad v. Atletico Madrid 2-0; Real Madrid v. Sabadell 2-0; Malaga v. Betis 0-0; Sevilla v. Valencia 2-0; Pontevedra v. Cordoba 3-1; Zaragoza v. Bilbao 1-0.

SWITZERLAND: Basel v. Sion 2-2; Bellinzona v. Lausanne 3-1; Biel v. Chaux-de-Fonds 5-2; Grasshoppers v. Young Fellows Zurich 1-2; Lucerne v. Grenchen 1-0; Servette v. Lugano 0-1; Young Boys v. FC Zurich 1-1.

YUGOSLAVIA: Dinamo v. Red Star 2-0; Vojvodina v. Hajduk 2-2; Rijeka v. Olimpica 3-1; Radnicki v. Zvezdinar 2-0; Sarajevo v. Velez 2-1; Maribor v. Vardar 1-2; OFK Belgrade v. Proleter 3-1; Partizan v. Zagreb 2-0.

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CRAMER POINTS FINGER: OUR "STARS" ARE UNFIT!

— by TOM McKAIN * —

Although West German national assistant coach and FIFA representative, Dettmar Cramer, had only a short three-day visit to Adelaide, he gave coaches, players and officials plenty to think about.

He warned that on the international scene Australia was in danger of being overtaken by Asian countries, despite our triumph in Saigon last November. "The Asians are coming up fast," said Cramer. "If Australia does not do something concrete about its national team you will be left behind within two years. The Asians are fit, fast and excellent ball players, and now they are beginning to learn the finer tactical points of the game." Cramer said that there was nothing better to boost the game here than a successful national team. "If you get a good national side it creates a

tremendous interest, which has been proven by England. "Attendances in England have increased by 30 per cent since they won the World Cup. "Apart from spectator interest, you give young players something to aim for and 'idols' to stimulate their efforts on the field." Cramer, who was in Perth before coming to Adelaide, and who had seen WA in the Merdeka tournament, had one piece of advice for all Australian players — "Get really fit." After watching the Beograd-Juventus game last Monday night he emphasised the fitness angle. "I saw a lot of good players out there tonight,

but not a lot of fit ones," he said. "It was the same in the Merdeka tournament. The Australians played well for an hour then folded." He refused to accept our part-time status as an excuse for unfit players. "They must train at least four nights a week. "When they are not with their clubs then they should be doing everything they can on their own to get as near peak fitness as possible. "I accept no excuse on fitness. If you are not fit you won't live with modern soccer players in other parts of the world. "Players must have basic principles drummed into them so that they be-

come natural, like running into top position after passing the ball. "This I had screamed at me when I was 14 years old — pass and run. "And also — Go to meet the ball. "Elementary you may say, but tonight I saw it happening so often — players waiting for the ball instead of going to meet it, and some passing the ball then standing still after parting with it. "Get 26 players and work on them as often as possible, and tour outside your own country," is Cramer's advice. "Let them play against each other, let them play as many games as they can, and above all, get them fit." In Adelaide's "Soccer Review."

In Qld. it's the players who bear the brunt

— from a Special Correspondent —

The way Queensland soccer is being conducted, one wonders whether any of our executive are fit to handle anything bigger than a two-bob raffle for chooks.

In recent "representative" games the gate takings were so low that the QSF decided the players should suffer. The constitution clearly states that all players representing Queensland must get at least \$10 a match. Against Dallas Tornados in January, the players received \$5 for the match plus \$6 training expenses — \$1 a night for the six stints. Admittedly, the crowd was terribly small and the Federation lost money on the deal — but they never consulted the players about the change, just slipped them an envelope and said nothing. Against New Guinea two weeks ago the crowd was again poor and once again, the Federation lost money. The players were given a choice: either they pool the money from the gate plus the Newcastle and Canberra fixtures of last Sunday — less expenses for the three games — and divvy up what's left up to \$10 each, or they

pull out and the matches will be cancelled. All players, afraid of victimisation, agreed. The smaller States, like Queensland, have been madly pressing for the resumption of interstate matches — yet obviously they cannot handle them without the players bearing the brunt of any "mishap." Recent events prove that soccer in Queensland is moving fast — backwards, and will continue to do so until suitable officials gain control. The Queensland Federation may just as well use an Enid Blyton's Noddy Book for a constitution, for all it's worth. The "administration" is clearly incompetent to handle the "lives" of semi-pro players throughout Queensland. I would leave Australian control in the hands of the two major States, NSW and Victoria, who at least operate much closer to big-time than Queensland and possibly the other

A.S.F. must become a national body!

(Continued from page 8)

Yet everybody expressed surprise that neither Madrid nor Ferencvaros will tour... The ASF should have long ago co-opted the services of people who know European soccer; but they haven't and won't. That would ruin the closed-shop policy. Also, the ASF should be dealing with respected, highly organised tour agents in Europe; but they won't because it may eliminate a few overseas jaunts for officials. By lifting the telephone and dialling half a dozen tour agents in Europe, you can find out at once which team is available, at what terms. Isn't that an infinitely smoother way of doing things than globetrotting around the world — and ending up with nothing? When recently the Czech and Hungarian national teams toured South America, did they send their secretaries as a vanguard to find opponents? When any South American team goes to Europe, do they send their officials to scout around for likely matches? Of course they don't. They arrange the matches through a tour agent who makes his living out of this complicated business. But we in Australia still insist on our prehistoric methods... Not without some justification, the ASF may reply that it can never become the "perfect organisation" while the States themselves are so imperfect; the States, in turn, say the same about the clubs. Admittedly, the basic components of the ASF — the State Federations — are often in a turmoil; "power struggles" take most of the time and attention of officials entrusted with the running of the game. Quite often they have to spend so much of their time on little conspiracies and intrigues in order to stay in office that they have no time

left to carry out their official duties... A disturbing number of officials, sad to say, would find it hard to qualify on any reasonable ground to lead soccer; their involvement is superficial, their passion long extinguished, their know-how minimal and their motives not always entirely honorable. For many people of ethnic origin, soccer is the chance of a lifetime to emerge from total obscurity and be looked upon, by their compatriots, as a "leader". This, in turn, may result in all sorts of fringe benefits, often economical. Nowhere else in the world is it easier to rise, within a year or two, from being a complete outsider to a "leading soccer official"; all you have to do is donate a few hundred dollars to your club, throw a few little "parties", lobby for a few votes — and pronto, before you even understand the offside rule, you are entrusted with the responsibility of highly technical and intricate soccer problems which often take a lifetime to appreciate and solve. Soccer, to a large extent, is like medicine; everybody claims to know all about it. But how few do... As somebody remarked recently, rather laconically: "Many of our officials would be lucky to be spectators in their former homelands, let alone leaders". So it's obvious that if we want to reconstruct the ASF we must improve our State organisations. Let's have, by all means, successful and farsighted businessmen in the Federations; let's pick their brains how to put the game on a solid economical basis. But let's not commit the tremendous blunder of presuming that just because someone can sell salami or brassieres or curtain-hangers, he can also sell soccer. We should make every effort to enlist the aid of people

SA RESULTS

Polonia v. Croatia 0-0.
WA Hellas v. USC Lion 3-1.
Semifinals:
WA Hellas v. Beograd 2-1.
Juventus v. Polonia 1-0.

Scoreless draw in Melbourne

(Continued from page 3)

The Croatia goalie undoubtedly saved NSW from what would have been an undeserved defeat when he sprung like a cat to deflect these two pile-drivers over the bar. The two NSW fullbacks were excellent, both covering their wingers effectively and making attacking sorties down the wing. Lincoln, I thought, was slightly superior to Ackersley on the day and completely blotted out Vojtek in the first half, forcing the international forward to move to the centre after the interval. Schaefer confirmed his return to international form with a typically forceful display which nipped many a Victorian attack in the bud. He was among the very best players on the field and should also retain his national team status against Japan. Linkman Westwater, who played the previous day, ran out of stamina late in the game, but was useful with solid tackling. Scheinflug worked like a Trojan, but couldn't curb his liking to wander upfield, often leaving his rear undefended — giving Ackersley grey hair in the process. The former Australian skipper, however, must be credited with a satisfactory return to representative football. Of the forwards, Archie Blue was the only one who played right up to his reputation. He saw plenty of the ball on the right wing,

handled the tricky surface well and had the best NSW shots of the match. Fernandez, very active and alert in the first half, was visibly affected by too much football in 24 hours after the interval and fell into errors. Warren tried to rally his sagging forwards, but he too was exhausted and very well marked. The Victorian team, obviously short of match practice, totally lacked cohesion. Individually gifted, their forwards combined even less than their NSW counterparts and they would have gone completely unnoticed had it not been for Abonyi — easily the best forward on the field. Abonyi's class transpired in his every move. His positional play, dribbling and shooting were first class and he was the only Victorian forward who really worried the professional-looking NSW defence. Together with the outstanding Van Alphen, every Victorian defender showed good form and must be credited en bloc for taming the NSW forwards. Goodwin and Randles were revelations and both may soon be knocking on the door of the Australian squad. Vojtek was a big disappointment: he overdid the fancy stuff, over-complicated matters and was ridiculously easily subdued. McMeechan and McColl tried hard, but had little to show for their strong running.

The match itself can be divided in four parts: 1. The first 15 minutes were even, both teams attacking in turn, but the defences coped easily. 2. The 30 minutes until half-time gave Victoria a slight territorial advantage and Abonyi nearly scored. 3. It was all NSW in the first half hour of the second half, but with the exception of a great shot by Blue, brilliantly saved by Schroif — who was inclined to play to the crowd throughout — their advantage was unfuriously sterile. 4. Victoria tested Corry with two tremendous shots and were the more dangerous in the last 15 minutes. Despite both teams' desperate will to win, the match was always clean and fair, with practically no rough stuff. Though almost every NSW player complained about the Victorian referee and linesmen, none of their decisions affected the result. A scoreless draw was a true indication of play in a match dominated by two first class defences from start to finish. Victoria: Schroif; Keith High; Randles, Van Alphen, Goodwin, McColl, Abonyi, Sanchez (J. McKay), McMeechan, Vojtek. Coach: M. De Bruyckere. NSW: Corry; Lincoln, Ackersley, Schaefer, Marnoch, Scheinflug; Blue, Westwater, Warren, Baartz, Fernandez. Coach: J. Ven-glos. Referee: D. Mainland. Crowd: 6,000.



FLOTTA LAURO

LET'S MOULD THE A.S.F. INTO A TRULY NATIONAL FEDERATION!

The best is perhaps if I come straight to the point and work my way from there: the Australian Soccer Federation, as it is today, is nothing short of a tragedy.

It is badly organised, naively constructed and ineptly run; it has an inglorious past and no future.

Criticising any official body is never a pleasure; exposing the ASF for what it is may even look heretical.

Yet one has to choose between staying silent which, in this case, would be to condone the position or to speak frankly and risk the charge of being a "knocker".

Everybody who moves in soccer circles can easily verify that the standing and prestige of the ASF is at a very low ebb.

Self-interests

Most people — including many ASF officials — readily agree that the organisation is gradually breaking down; yet few people are able to diagnose all the troubles and suggest any therapy.

Let's see first what we consider is hopelessly wrong with the ASF.

Basically, two things: the system and the people. It's hard to decide which is more serious.

The ASF, to many people, is that little third floor office space in King Street, Sydney, where the secretary and his girl Friday try to cope with the uncooperable.

But in reality, the ASF is much more than that: it has an executive, it has members and it has affiliated State organisations, almost all with a staggering range of self-interests.

Quite often people speak of the ASF as if it were an intangible, abstract organisation placed above us all by an Act of God and consequently beyond repair.

This, of course, is sheer nonsense. We created the ASF — the clubs, the people behind the clubs — and it's obvious that we created a monster.

Anarchy

Much of the blame for this must go to NSW who played a leading part in the formation of the ASF: after a successful break from the old Association, it was NSW which eventually induced the other States to follow suit and form the new body.

But, instead of modelling the new organisation on some established and workable overseas pattern, NSW leaned over backwards to appear fair and super-democratic.

What we have in the ASF is not democracy but chaos and anarchy.

The first serious shortcoming of our national body is that it is not national at all.

The various State delegates almost always represent State interests; they feel it is their sacred duty to "fight" for their home States.

This, to some extent, is true. But there is nobody fighting for Australian interests. And this, to a large extent, is a tragedy.

The ASF is like a Parliament; what Australian soccer needs is a Cabinet. But that we haven't got.

Like lump sugar, the ASF is divided and sub-divided into numerous committees with the same person often being on two or three such gatherings.

In determining who is on which sub-committee, the main problem is always to have a man there from your State, whether he qualifies or not.

Time and again we are confronted with sub-committees where the wrong man is in the wrong position, yet nobody cares because we all know that it is a State political appointment, part of the constant conniving, scheming and bargaining for places and titles.

These sub-committees are supposed to do the lion's share of the ASF's work — but they don't.

Over every petty issue that should be decided on the spot by the secretary, a committee meeting is convened, usually flying three interstate members to a fourth State capital for a day or two and then going back home without having accomplished anything at all.

I seriously doubt if there is another organisation of the size of the ASF anywhere in the world which would spend so much on travel and "meetings".

At the drop of a hat sub-committee meetings are convened, delegates flown back and forth, put up in luxury hotels, allowances paid — and then we hear that they decided nothing, achieved nothing, resolved nothing.

Fellow travellers

The ASF is like the American Strategic Air Command which always has a number of nuclear bombers airborne; hardly an interstate flight leaves a capital city tarmac without an ASF member or delegation aboard.

Last year the ASF met in Sydney, the day by "accident" coinciding with a Manchester United match.

This was already the second or third meeting of the year, all at a fair expense.

Yet a few weeks after this meeting it was learned that the ASF "had forgotten" to make arrangements for the Australia Cup and, in a panic, recommended the scrubbing of the series because of "lack of time".

But let's look closer. In January 1968 the ASF executive met in Melbourne, as did the Australia Cup sub-committee.

A few weeks later a huge argument raged on what the sub-committee actually had decided and those who were members of the very meeting disagreed on the resolutions!

The annual general meeting in Brisbane, over two days, was held a few weeks later — once again, without any result.

Duplication

It did not clear up the Australia Cup mystery, did not deal effectively with the Japan or Naples tours, did not set a firm course for our national team's future.

Instead, the "tours sub-committee" and the "national team sub-committee" had to be convened last week to deal with their problems — when ALL these people were in Brisbane at the AGM and should have spent their time on these subjects instead of horseshooting on the distribution of voting rights and the vice-presidency.

This type of horrible duplication and triplication of meetings — and expenses — is not the exception but the rule.

Yet the States put up with it, tolerate it, probably condone it instead of promptly withdrawing the mandate of their erring or sinning deleg-

ates and even replacing them with someone more capable.

What, you may ask, has the ASF achieved in concrete terms, over the years?

Made money, they tell you. Plenty of money, from tours. And from the Pools. Fine.

But any halfwit would have made the same money out of Everton and Roma and Chelsea and Manchester United; as for the Pools, the old Association was getting money from them for years.

It was the talents of Vernon and Lodi and Venables and Bobby Charlton that filled the ASF coffers, not our brilliant organisation.

Tours are the easiest to arrange; give individual promoters the green light and they will do it probably much better.

Genius?

Prague club of Sydney, with their modest organisation, have been arranging private tours for years; surely it doesn't take a genius to cash in on the glamor and skill of overseas visitors?

What does take some genius is to use the money effectively — and that the ASF or the States have not done.

Of the \$360,000 distributed between the States over the years from tour profits, nobody has anything to show; no grounds, not even a place of land, not even an extra floodlight tower.

As for the ASF, it spent a large portion of its own share on travel — interstate and overseas, anywhere you like. What has the ASF achieved?

"Blueprints"

After years of idle talk, "plans" and "blueprints" and countless meetings, we have still —

- No national team policy;
 - No national director of coaching;
 - No uniformity in the State competitions;
 - No permanent format for the Australia Cup;
 - No interstate championship;
 - No firm, farsighted Asian policy;
 - No Australia-wide promotion;
 - No central effort to harness amateurs and juniors.
- And another dozen things. Giving credit where it's due, it must be stated candidly that in the international sphere the ASF has certainly a better record than in domestic affairs.

In 1965, at Jim Bayutti's prompting and not without some very bitter opposition, Australia did enter the World Cup elimination rounds.

Although beaten by North Korea, the organisation of the tour was excellent and the effect far-reaching: we entered the Asian scene at last.

Two years later Australia undertook a successful Asian tour — but once again, not before many high ASF officials had opposed even the idea.

But luck played a major part in the success. Despite months of "efforts", Australia's Asian tour was certain to fall through when — deus ex machina — an invitation arrived from Saigon to send a team there for the National Day Tournament.

It's hard to decide whether to list the ASF's record on the Oceanic Confederation as a credit or a debit.

It was certainly a positive achievement that our deleg-

ation to the 1966 FIFA Congress in London did succeed in having Oceania accepted as one of FIFA's geographical zones.

However, once again, much ado about nothing. It wasn't until very recently — almost 18 months after the Confederation's birth — that the first gathering was even organised.

But even today this Confederation has no firm, definite, detailed programme, working schedule or even a solid idea.

In the time-honored fashion, ASF officials demanded — and got — certain offices and posts on this Oceanic body: Sir William is the president, McAndrew the secretary, plus we have one or two more executive members.

But if they cannot advance the cause of the ASF, these very same executives; what earthly chance have they to succeed with Oceania?

Or did they fight for these honorary titles simply to have one more tag in their collections?

Wouldn't it have been much wiser to co-opt the aid of "outsiders" to do some real work in the Confederation? ASF secretary McAndrew is far too busy as it is; only recently he has asked for an assistant secretary to cope with his work.

Vote-swapping

Was it an intelligent move then to pass on to him the secretaryship of Oceania as well?

Unfortunately, nobody really feels at present that the ASF belongs to him.

The ASF prestige, resources and finances are there to be exploited, not improved — or so goes the popular belief.

A tragically shortsighted and almost cynical policy of the ASF helps this trend.

All its sub-committees are staffed by ASF executives or delegates at the total exclusion of "outsiders".

This tends to create a clique system with the accent on vote-swapping, counter-deals and compromises, a kind of "I'll back you in this if you back me in that" attitude.

Although little love is lost between the ASF top brass — you never stop hearing them complain about one another — their mutual interests and instinct of self-preservation still unites them against what they refer to as the "community".

Compared with the ASF's operation, the Security Council of the United Nations — well known for its verbosity and ineffectual "decisions" — is a Teutonically efficient, highly polished organisation.

No action

Every ASF official entrusted with any duty at all studiously writes a report about his activities, usually making recommendations to be adopted.

The strange thing is that most of these reports are useful, most of the recommendations progressive. But hardly anybody ever reads them — and the ASF seldom acts on them.

Take, for example, the recently revived talk on the need for a National League; listen to various club officials explain to you in earnest that "some plan should be prepared on this".

How many of these must have read ASF secretary Ian

— By PAUL DEAN —
Editor

McAndrew's massive, 46-page document on the subject?

Detailed in every respect — though probably far from perfect — it was circulated in February 1966; circulated but never read and promptly forgotten.

As if to verify all that I have said throughout this piece, last week an ASF sub-committee "discussed" who should be the manager of the Australian team in the matches against Japan.

After some preliminaries, the choice was reduced to two: John Barclay of Melbourne and Tom Grimson of Sydney.

Then, incredibly, a vote was taken — and a deadlock resulted.

What absolute nonsense, once again. With due respect to Tom Grimson, an able administrator, why should he even stand for this post?

He is already the ASF treasurer, a member of at least three other ASF sub-committees and a member of the NSW executive.

And why do we always assume that just because somebody is a good accountant or treasurer, he will also be a good team manager?

Barclay, judging from all official reports, didn't put a foot wrong with the team on the Asian tour. If he is available to take the team again, why does the ASF even have to consider the matter any further?

Unless, of course, we are right in our suspicion that in these matters personal vanity comes first and the interests of soccer a very poor second.

ment, understood it and suggested a discussion over it? Yet of all the plans and ideas advanced so far, this is the only one that merits serious consideration.

This could change the ASF into a national soccer body, such as The FA (England), DFB (Germany), FIGC (Italy), MLSZ (Hungary), OFB (Austria) and others. In all these countries the interests of cities and provinces are protected — but not at the expense of national interests.

In the ASF we have nothing BUT regional interests. It is doubtful if we have the right leader — and I refer explicitly to the ASF brass.

Sir William Walkley, a retired oil magnate, entered soccer rather late in life and was invited to join as a figurehead. Consequently it is fair to say that he has very little actual knowledge of the game's background, history, evolution or problems.

But what we need is not a figurehead but a man who rolls up his sleeves and works, advises, guides and executes. This man the ASF lacks.

Politics

Even some of the other VIP posts are distributed not so much on merit but according to interstate politics.

One VIP wasn't even in soccer until a few years ago; another one was nurtured on rugby, a third was the sworn enemy of the Federation to the extent that he even took it to court...

Is that the right mixture for the elite of a soccer organisation?

People that either are not interested or are not informed?

A few years ago there was serious talk of inviting ex-Test cricket star Alan Davidson to either the NSW or ASF presidency.

What a totally insane, desperate idea. Could you possibly imagine the Cricket Board inviting Theo Marmaras or Jim Bayutti to head THEIR organisation?

Eventually Davidson declined — but I still feel ashamed that he — nice fellow he is — even had the

McAndrew also worked out details of a possible re-organisation of the ASF, making it a central, truly national body with the State Federations transformed into State branches — how many people have read this docu-

opportunity of knocking back such an offer.

The ASF would probably be a much more efficient organisation if it were to be run by, say, three people, from one office — and I don't care whether that office is in Sydney, Melbourne or Oodnadabba.

But as long as the secretary must convene meetings and consult the States on every petty matter, we have a referendum, not a national body.

"Clearing house"

It is common knowledge that you cannot run enterprises by committees, only by central planning; yet we have nothing but committees.

There is no doubt that the secretary has not enough authority; what he has, is often the wrong kind.

In many matters of administration he should merely consult the States but the decision should be his; instead, he is the clearing-house between a range of State interests.

On the other hand, there is no earthly reason why he should even be asked to find touring teams and undertake long overseas journeys.

To select the right team to tour Australia one must know a dozen factors; when the various European seasons start and end, when the various international cup competitions reach what stage, what the relative strength of any particular European club is at any given moment, what that club usually gets for an overseas match, etc.

All this knowledge McAndrew never even claimed; with due respect to him and the rest of the ASF, we at "Soccer World" could even lecture them on the subject.

Yet what happens? The ASF Executive sends McAndrew on a mission to "get a top team" and later, when he returns empty-handed, blames him.

Real Madrid asked for too much (\$10,000); Ferencvaros were offered too little (\$2,000) — and all these we not only could have told the ASF but actually told them in advance.

(Continued on page 7.)